

Introduced by Senator FlorezDecember 6, 2004

An act to add Article 6 (commencing with Section 1249) to Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 21, as introduced, Florez. Central Valley Project water.

Under existing federal law, the federal Bureau of Reclamation operates the Central Valley Project and appropriates water for the beneficial uses of that project pursuant to permits granted by the State Water Resources Control Board and subject to specified state laws.

This bill would declare that the right to the use of any water appropriated pursuant to a permit or a license granted to the federal government in connection with its operation of the Central Valley Project shall be appurtenant to the lands irrigated with that water, and would prohibit the use of that water from being interrupted if it is applied to reasonable and beneficial use pursuant to a contract between a person or public agency and the federal government.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:
- 2 (a) The economy of the San Joaquin Valley has developed as a
- 3 result of, and is dependent upon, the availability of water from
- 4 the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project, which has been
- 5 for more than four decades applied to reasonable and beneficial
- 6 use for irrigation, municipal, and industrial purposes.

1 (b) It is in the best interests of the people of the State of
2 California to sustain the economy of the San Joaquin Valley
3 through continued, uninterrupted access by farmers and cities to
4 water from the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project.

5 SEC. 2. Article 6 (commencing with Section 1249) is added
6 to Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Water Code, to read:

7
8 Article 6. Central Valley Project Water
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10 1249. (a) The right to the use of any water appropriated
11 pursuant to a permit or license granted to the federal government
12 in connection with its operation of the Central Valley Project
13 shall be appurtenant to the lands irrigated with that water, and the
14 use of that water shall not be interrupted if it is applied to
15 reasonable and beneficial use pursuant to a contract between a
16 person or public agency and the federal government.

17 (b) This section shall be carried out in a manner that is
18 consistent with federal law.